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FCC - MAILROOM

Quartzsite Elementary School District #4

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CC Docket No. 02-6

November 22, 2005

We desperately need your help and are appealing to the FCC to restore our initial funding commitment for telecommunications which was reduced by nearly 85%. Our small and rural district in Arizona can not afford this inadvertent travesty and it will compromise our ability to function and provide educational services to our students. Our Internal Connections funding commitment was very late in its final approval after completing an audit by SLD. For the past 5 years, we have filed one 486 for both Telecommunications and Internal Connections. As in years past, we waited for Internal Connections to be funded before sending in Form 486, not realizing that two 486's could or should be filed. That costly error was identified by SLD and we were mailed a Form 486 Notification Letter dated Oct. 19th, 2005, application # 313486.

We do not have an extra \$30,000 in our budget. Our District is a very small and rural district, with declining enrollment, and a high poverty rate. Our district includes combined classrooms, out dated textbooks and a shoestring budget that requires various people to wear numerous hats. Dave Stewart, our IT, does all computer related repairs, purchasing, network technician, technology instruction for the student/staff, and E-Rate filing. Our telecommunications and Internet access costs are extremely high due the remoteness of the area and more than we can afford without E-Rate funding. We are limited to telecommunications vendors that have exclusive and high rates for T1 and Internet service. I hope this will change.

We have appealed the SLD reduction of telecommunication funding and were denied. We are in desperate need of your help in this matter. As a school Superintendent, I am deeply concerned and fearful that this could jeopardize the educational needs of our students and the community as a learning environment.

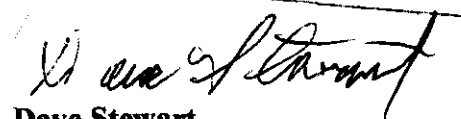
I realize that Arizona is far from utilizing their funding capacity with E-Rate and I would hope and pray that you would consider this appeal. The E-Rate program has worked wonderfully in leveling the playing field for the small and rural districts in making technology and the Internet affordable. The loss of \$32,883.66 will devastate our budget. Our school children are the ones who will suffer and with two strikes against many of them they will feel the ramifications of this decision. We sincerely appeal for your help in reinstating these funds. We are in desperate need of help in this matter.

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We appreciate your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,


William Blong
Superintendent


Dave Stewart
District Technology Coordinator